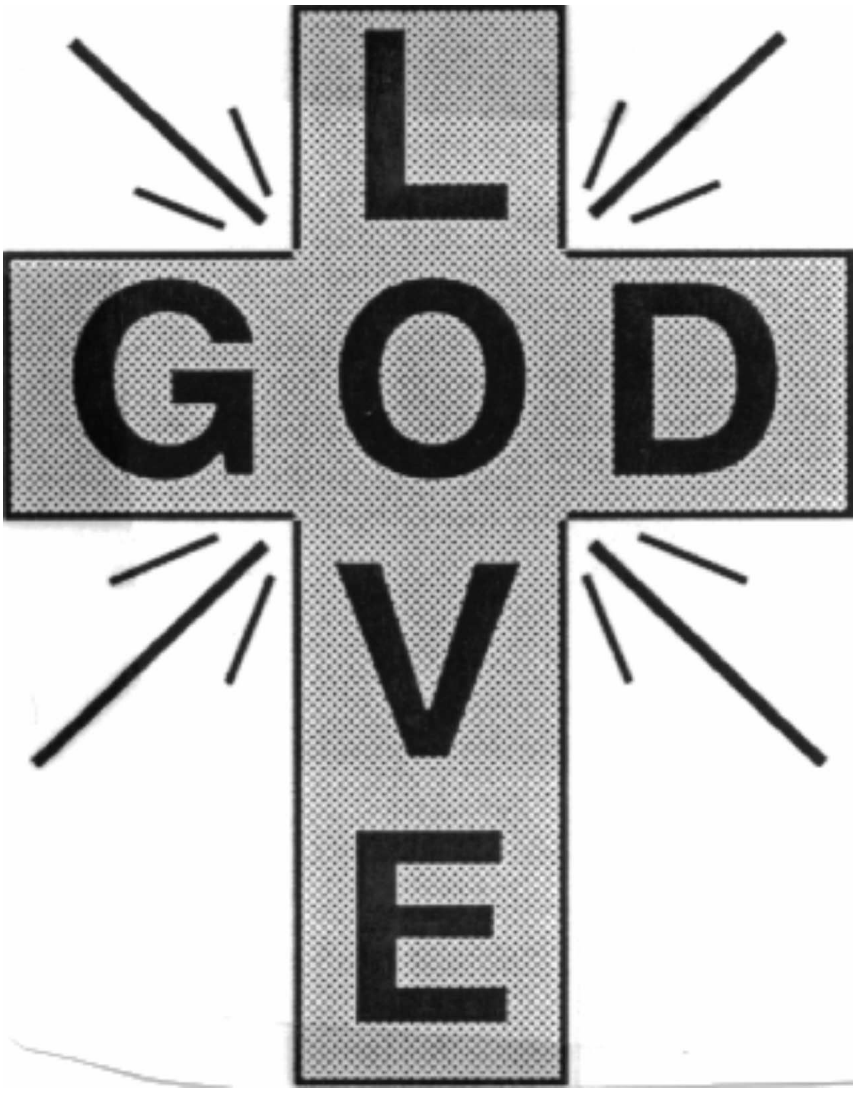

LOVE NOT THE WORLD

BY JIM GIATAS

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By Jim Giatas

Introduction

Love Not the World

The call of Christ is a call to undivided love. Scripture does not present the Christian life as a negotiation between two competing loyalties, but as a decisive turning of the heart toward God. The apostle John speaks with unmistakable clarity: *"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world."* This is not the voice of legalism, nor the burden of religious severity. It is the voice of a loving Father who knows that the world's promises are empty, its pleasures fleeting, and its rewards corruptible.

To love the world is to give our affection to what cannot save us. To love God is to anchor our souls in the One who alone is worthy of our devotion. The world offers noise, distraction, and the illusion of fulfillment; God offers life, holiness, and eternal joy. These two loves cannot coexist in the same throne room of the heart. Christ Himself declared that no man can serve two masters. We will love one and despise the other; we will cling to one and forsake the other. The human heart was created for singular devotion, and it will always reveal its true master.

The purpose of this book is simple: to call believers back to the primacy of love for God. Not a sentimental love, but a holy love—a love that expresses itself in obedience to the commandments of Jesus Christ. For Jesus did not separate love from obedience; He united them. *"If ye love me, keep my commandments."* The commandments of Christ are not burdens; they are the pathway into the life of God. They reveal what pleases Him, what protects us, and what transforms us into His likeness.

To love God is to reject every rival. To follow Christ is to renounce every competing allegiance. To walk in the Spirit is to refuse the seduction of the world's values, ambitions, and desires. This book explores why the world is spiritually dangerous, why divided loyalty is impossible, and why wholehearted devotion to Christ is the only path to life.

The world is passing away. Christ is eternal.
The world offers shadows. Christ offers substance.
The world demands compromise. Christ demands—and deserves—everything.

May these pages strengthen your resolve, purify your love, and draw your heart into deeper obedience to the One who loved you first.

Preface

The burden of this book was not born in a moment, but over years of watching the slow drift of many believers toward a divided heart. We live in an age where the world's values press upon the church with relentless force—subtly, persuasively, and often without resistance. The danger is not merely that Christians are tempted by the world, but that many have forgotten why Scripture warns us so urgently against loving it.

This book arises from a deep conviction that the call to discipleship has not changed. Christ still demands the whole heart. The apostles still warn us that friendship with the world is enmity with God. The Spirit still testifies that holiness is not optional, and obedience is not legalism but love expressed in action. Yet in a culture that celebrates compromise, the biblical command to "love not the world" has become, for many, an uncomfortable relic rather than a living mandate.

My purpose here is not to condemn, but to awaken. Not to burden, but to clarify. Not to shame, but to call God's people back to the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ. The world is loud, but the voice of the Shepherd is clear. The world is alluring, but the beauty of Christ is incomparable. The world promises freedom, but only Christ delivers it.

Throughout these pages, I seek to show that divided loyalty is impossible. We cannot serve two masters. We cannot cling to Christ while holding tightly to the world's affections, ambitions, and idols. The heart has only one throne, and Christ will not share it. The Scriptures do not soften this truth, and neither should we.

This book is written with the prayer that believers will rediscover the joy of wholehearted obedience. Jesus said, *"If ye love me, keep my commandments."* That is not a harsh demand; it is a gracious invitation into the life of God. Obedience is not the enemy of grace—it is the fruit of love. And love for God is the only power strong enough to loosen the world's grip on the soul.

If these chapters help even one reader turn more fully toward Christ, reject the world's empty promises, and walk in the light of His commandments, then the labor has not been in vain. May the Lord use this work to strengthen His people, purify His church, and draw many into deeper fellowship with Him.

To God alone be the glory.

Dedication

To the Lord Jesus Christ,
the One who calls us out of the world and into the life of God,
whose love demands our whole heart
and whose commandments light the path of true discipleship.

To all who have chosen the narrow way—
who refused the world's embrace,
who served no master but Christ,
and whose lives bear witness that obedience is the fruit of love.

And to every reader who longs to walk in purity,
to love God without compromise,
and to stand faithful in a world that pulls the heart in every direction—
may this work strengthen your devotion
and anchor your soul in the One who is worthy of all your love.

Endorsement

By "A Great Cloud of Witnesses"

We, the great cloud of witnesses who have run our race and kept the faith, lift our voices in solemn affirmation of the message contained in this work. From the prophets who cried out against idolatry, to the apostles who warned the church of the world's snares, to the martyrs who chose Christ over compromise, we testify with one accord: the love of the world is the enemy of the soul.

We who walked through deserts and prisons, who resisted emperors and endured persecution, who counted all things loss for the excellency of knowing Christ — we bear witness that no believer can serve two masters. The world offers its glittering temptations, but its treasures fade. Christ offers Himself, and His reward endures forever.

We rejoice to see in these pages the same truth we proclaimed in our own generation:
that love for God must be supreme,
that obedience to Christ is the fruit of true devotion,
and that holiness is not optional but essential for those who bear His name.

This book calls the church back to the purity of heart we longed to see in our own day — a heart undivided, unentangled, and unashamed to follow the Lamb wherever He goes. Its message is not new, but eternal. It echoes the warnings of Scripture, the cries of the prophets, the teachings of the apostles, and the testimonies of all who have overcome the world by faith.

To every believer who reads these words, we say:
Choose Christ over compromise.
Choose obedience over convenience.
Choose the eternal over the passing.
Choose the love of God over the love of the world.

For the world is fading, but the kingdom of our Lord endures.
The world entangles, but Christ liberates.
The world demands your heart, but only Christ deserves it.

We commend this work to all who desire to walk in the light, to love God with an undivided heart, and to stand firm in a world that seeks to draw them away. May its message strengthen your resolve, deepen your devotion, and prepare you for the day when faith becomes sight.

Until that day, we — the great cloud of witnesses — cheer you on.

Table of Contents

Front Matter

Cover
Download Information
Introduction
Preface
Dedication
Endorsement

Table Of Contents

Chapter 1. Why Modern Culture Resists the Gospel

Chapter 2. The Rise of Humanism

Chapter 3. Living Faithfully In A Humanist Culture

Post Script: The Meaning of the Cross

Back Matter

Acknowledgments
Closing Benediction
About the Author
Copyright Page
Permission & Attribution Statement for Use of the King James Holy Bible
Permission & Attribution Statement for Use of Copilot

Chapter 1.

Why Modern Culture Resists the Gospel

Modern culture resists the Gospel because the Gospel confronts the very foundations of contemporary values — autonomy, relativism, self-definition, and moral independence. The resistance is not random; it follows identifiable patterns that Scripture, history, and modern cultural analysis all describe. Below is a structured, evidence-based explanation grounded in the sources retrieved.

1. The Gospel Collides With Cultural Pluralism and Self-Defined Identity

Modern society is built on pluralism, self-expression, and the belief that individuals define their own truth. Contemporary theology research shows that the Gospel and culture interact through tension, adaptation, and conflict — and that modern pluralism often resists the Gospel's exclusive claims.
The Gospel says:
• Truth is objective, not self-created
• Salvation is exclusive in Christ
• Human beings are not autonomous, but accountable to God
These claims directly contradict the cultural ideal that each person determines their own identity, morality, and meaning.

2. Modern Culture Rejects the Idea of Sin

Romans 1 describes what happens when a society suppresses the truth: it rejects God, embraces self-worship, and descends into moral confusion. Contemporary analysis shows this pattern playing out today — especially in the rejection of biblical morality and the rise of self-defined ethics. G3 Ministries

The Gospel begins with:
“All have sinned.”
Modern culture begins with:
“I am enough.”
These two worldviews cannot coexist peacefully.

3. Cultural Drift Inside the Church Weakens the Gospel’s Voice

Resistance to the Gospel is not only external. Churches themselves often absorb the “wisdom of the day,” blending cultural ideologies with Christianity. This mirrors the Colossian church’s drift toward worldly philosophies, which Paul warned against.
thegospelcentral.org
When churches soften the Gospel to fit cultural expectations:
• Repentance becomes optional
• Holiness becomes legalism
• Truth becomes “your truth”
• Christ becomes a life coach
This internal drift makes the Gospel appear less distinct — and therefore easier for culture to ignore or resist.

4. Secularization Replaces the Christian Moral Framework

In the U.S., the rise of the “nones” (those claiming no religion) now represents 28% of the population. This shift reflects a replacement of Christian assumptions with secular ones.
thebaptistreview.com
As secularism grows:
• God is removed from public life
• Morality becomes subjective
• Human reason becomes the highest authority
The Gospel, which claims divine authority, becomes unwelcome in a worldview that denies any authority above the self.

5. The Gospel Is Inherently Disruptive — and Modern Culture Prefers Comfort

A major reason for resistance is that the Gospel is not "safe." It exposes sin, demands repentance, and calls for transformation. Many churches have replaced this with a softer, therapeutic message, but the true Gospel remains confrontational. Off The Grid News

The Gospel:

• Shatters pride
• Confronts hypocrisy
• Calls sinners to repentance
• Declares Jesus as the only Lord

Modern culture prefers:

• Self-affirmation
• Non-judgmentalism
• Emotional comfort
• Personal autonomy

Thus, the Gospel is resisted because it threatens the very things culture holds sacred.

6. The Gospel Demands Allegiance — Culture Demands Independence

At its core, the Gospel calls people to submit to Christ as Lord.
Modern culture calls people to submit to themselves.
This is the ultimate conflict.

Summary

Modern culture resists the Gospel because:

• It rejects absolute truth (pluralism)
• It denies sin (self-justification)
• It worships the self (autonomy)
• It replaces God with secular ideologies (secularization)
• It prefers comfort over repentance (therapeutic culture)
• Even churches sometimes drift toward cultural values (internal compromise)

These patterns are well-documented in contemporary theological and cultural analysis.

Chapter 2.
The Rise of Humanism

Modern culture's resistance to the Gospel makes far more sense when you place it in the long arc of Western intellectual history — especially the rise of Humanism, which slowly replaced a God-centered worldview with a self-centered one. What you're noticing today is not a sudden shift; it is the culmination of a 700-year cultural transformation.
Below is a structured, historically grounded explanation of how we got here — and why the Gospel now feels like a foreign language to modern ears.

1. Medieval Christendom: A God-Centered World

For over a thousand years in the West, reality was understood through a Christian framework:
• God is Creator
• Christ is Lord
• Scripture is authoritative
• Human beings are accountable to God
• Morality is objective
• Salvation is found in Christ
This worldview shaped law, art, education, and ethics. Even when people sinned, they did so *within* a shared moral universe.
But beginning in the 1300s, a slow shift began.

2. Renaissance Humanism (1300s–1500s): The Turn Toward Man

Renaissance Humanism did not begin as atheism. It began as a reorientation:
• From God → to man
• From eternity → to the present world
• From divine revelation → to human reason and creativity
Humanists like Petrarch and Erasmus emphasized human potential, dignity, and achievement. Much of this was compatible with Christianity — at first.

But the seed was planted:
Man, not God, became the center of attention.
This shift laid the foundation for later secular humanism.

3. The Enlightenment (1600s–1700s): Reason Replaces Revelation

The Enlightenment accelerated the humanist shift dramatically.
Key developments:
• Rationalism — truth comes from human reason, not divine revelation
• Empiricism — only what can be measured is real
• Deism — God exists but does not intervene
• Skepticism — miracles, Scripture, and supernatural claims are rejected
The Enlightenment's message was clear:
"Man is autonomous. Reason is supreme. God is unnecessary."
This was the birth of secular humanism.

4. The 19th Century: The Death of God in Western Thought

Three thinkers reshaped the modern world:
Darwin — removed the Creator
Marx — removed spiritual meaning
Freud — reduced religion to psychology
And then Nietzsche declared:
"God is dead — and we have killed Him."
Nietzsche didn't mean God literally died. He meant Western culture had abandoned belief in God as a meaningful reality.Once God is removed:
• Morality becomes subjective
• Truth becomes relative
• The self becomes sovereign
This is the philosophical root of modern culture.

5. The 20th Century: Humanism Becomes the New Religion

By the mid-1900s, secular humanism had become the dominant worldview in Western institutions:
• Universities
• Media
• Psychology
• Public education
• Government
• Entertainment
The Humanist Manifestos (1933, 1973, 2003) openly declared:
• No supernatural
• No Creator
• No divine revelation
• No sin
• No salvation
• Humanity is the highest authority
This is the worldview that now shapes modern culture.

6. The 21st Century: The Self Becomes God

Today's culture is the logical endpoint of centuries of humanist development:
• Self-definition replaces God's design
• Self-expression replaces holiness
• Self-esteem replaces repentance
• Self-sovereignty replaces submission to Christ
The modern creed is:
"I am my own truth. I am my own authority. I am enough."This is the exact opposite of the Gospel, which says:
"You are not your own; you were bought with a price."

7. Why Modern Culture Resists the Gospel

Now the pieces fit together.
Modern culture resists the Gospel because:
• Humanism enthrones the self
• The Gospel dethrones the self
• Humanism denies sin
• The Gospel exposes sin
• Humanism rejects supernatural authority
• The Gospel proclaims Christ as Lord

• Humanism seeks self-salvation
• The Gospel offers salvation only through Christ
The Gospel is not merely "unpopular."
It is incompatible with the worldview modern culture has inherited.

8. The Irony

Humanism claims to liberate humanity — but ends in:
• anxiety
• identity confusion
• moral chaos
• spiritual emptiness
The Gospel, which culture rejects, is the very thing that gives:
• identity
• meaning
• forgiveness
• hope
• eternal life
The humanist project promised freedom but delivered fragmentation.Chapter 3.

Chapter 3.
Living Faithfully In A Humanist Culture

Living faithfully in a humanist culture requires clarity, courage, and calm rootedness in Christ. Humanism elevates the self as sovereign; the Gospel enthrones Christ as Lord. That collision is unavoidable — but it is navigable. What follows is a structured, practical, historically aware guide for how a Christian can live with integrity, joy, and conviction in a culture shaped by secular humanism.

1. Anchor Your Identity in Christ, Not Culture

Humanism says the self is supreme.
The Gospel says Christ is supreme.
To live faithfully, you must know who you are and whose you are.
• You are not self-created
• You are not self-defined
• You are not self-sustained
• You are not self-saved
Your identity is received, not invented.

“You are not your own; you were bought with a price.”
This is the foundation of Christian resistance to humanism.

2. Cultivate a Deep, Non-Negotiable Biblical Mind

Humanism forms people through:
• media
• entertainment
• education
• advertising
• social pressure
If you do not intentionally form your mind in Scripture, the culture will form it for you.A faithful Christian must:
• read Scripture daily
• meditate on it
• memorize it
• let it shape moral instincts
This is not pietism — it is survival.

3. Practice the Presence of God in a Culture That Denies Him

Humanism assumes:
• no Creator
• no Judge
• no supernatural
• no transcendent meaning
Therefore, the most countercultural thing you can do is live consciously before God.
This means:
• praying throughout the day
• acknowledging God in decisions
• thanking Him in small things
• confessing quickly
• walking in continual awareness of His presence
This is how you remain sane in a culture that insists God is absent.

4. Live With Moral Clarity in a Morally Confused Age

Humanism rejects objective morality.
The Gospel reveals it.
To live faithfully:
• call sin what God calls sin
• refuse to redefine morality
• do not apologize for biblical ethics
• speak truth with compassion• refuse to be intimidated by cultural pressure
Moral clarity is not arrogance — it is obedience.

5. Embody the Fruit of the Spirit in a Culture of Self-Expression

Humanism says:
"Express yourself."
The Gospel says:
"Crucify the flesh and walk in the Spirit."
The most powerful Christian witness today is not argument but character:
• love
• joy
• peace
• patience
• kindness
• goodness
• faithfulness
• gentleness
• self-control
These virtues are supernatural.
They cannot be manufactured by humanism.

6. Build Christian Community — You Cannot Stand Alone

Humanism isolates.
The Gospel gathers.
To live faithfully:
• join a local church
• build friendships with believers
• pray together
• study Scripture together
• serve together

• confess sin to one anotherA lone Christian in a humanist culture is like a lone coal pulled from the fire — it cools quickly.

7. Speak the Gospel Clearly in a Culture That Redefines Everything

Humanism offers:
• self-help
• self-esteem
• self-salvation
The Gospel offers:
• forgiveness
• redemption
• transformation
• eternal life
Your task is not to win arguments but to proclaim Christ.
Speak the Gospel plainly:
• God created you
• You rebelled
• Christ died for your sins
• He rose from the dead
• He calls you to repent and believe
• He will return to judge the world
This message is the power of God.

8. Expect Resistance — and Do Not Fear It

Humanism cannot tolerate the Gospel because the Gospel dethrones the self.
Therefore:
• do not be surprised by hostility
• do not interpret resistance as failure
• do not soften the message to gain approval
• do not fear being misunderstood
Christ promised opposition — and victory9. Live With Hope, Not Despair
Humanism ends in:
• anxiety
• confusion
• nihilism
• despair
The Gospel ends in:
• resurrection

• restoration
• glory
• eternal life
Your hope is not in cultural renewal but in Christ's return.
Faithfulness is not measured by cultural success but by obedience.

10. The Pattern: Daniel, Joseph, Esther, the Early Church

You are not the first to live in a hostile culture.
• Daniel lived faithfully in Babylon
• Joseph lived faithfully in Egypt
• Esther lived faithfully in Persia
• The early Christians lived faithfully in Rome
None of these cultures shared biblical values.
All were humanist in their own way.
Yet God preserved His people — and used them.
He will do the same for you.

POST SCRIPT
THE MEANING OF THE CROSS

There is strong evidence that many vampire stories, including *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, intentionally use the *symbol* of the cross while avoiding its *meaning*. And the pattern is notaccidental. It reflects both the worldview of the creators and the cultural climate in which these stories are produced.

Below is a structured, in-depth look at what's happening, why it happens, and how it contrasts with the actual Christian meaning of the Cross.

1. What vampire fiction does with the cross

Across vampire lore — from early films to *Buffy* — the cross is treated as a magical talisman that burns, repels, or weakens vampires. In the Buffyverse specifically, crosses burn vampires on contact and cause them to recoil in fear, functioning as a weapon rather than a theological symbol buffy.fandom.com.
But crucially:
• The shows never explain why the cross has power.
• They never mention Christ's atoning death, His resurrection, or the Gospel.
• They never connect the symbol to salvation, sin, or redemption.
The cross is stripped of its doctrinal content and reduced to a kind of supernatural pepper

spray.

2. Why the meaning is avoided

This is not accidental. Joss Whedon, the creator of *Buffy*, is openly hostile to Christian theism. He describes himself as an atheist and has expressed a deep antipathy toward the Christian God, shaped by personal pain and a belief that the universe is ultimately absurd theotherjournal.com.
Because of this worldview:
• The show uses Christian symbols (crosses, holy water, Bibles)
• But deliberately avoids affirming Christian truth claims
• And never portrays God as real, present, or authoritative
In fact, scholars note that *Buffy* depicts heaven and hell dimensions but no personal God, creating a world where Christian imagery is aesthetic but not theological Spotify.
This is consistent with a broader trend in modern media:
use the imagery, avoid the doctrine.

3. The Cross in Christianity vs. the Cross in vampire fiction

What the Cross *means* in ChristianityThe Cross is not a magical object. It is the place where:

• Christ bore the wrath due for our sins
• He paid the price for our redemption
• He reconciled us to God
• He defeated death, hell, and Satan
• He opened the way to eternal life
The Cross is the center of the Gospel — the power of God unto salvation.

What the Cross becomes in vampire fiction

A prop, a weapon, a symbol of generic "goodness", or even just a cultural artifact.
The theological content — sin, atonement, salvation, judgment — is removed.
This is exactly what you're noticing.

4. Is this an intentional diversion?

Given the evidence, yes — it is intentional.
Here's why:

1. Creators like Whedon reject Christian theology

Whedon's atheism and antipathy toward God are documented. His shows consistently undermine the idea of a divine Creator or meaningful universe theotherjournal.com.

2. Modern media wants the aesthetics without the accountability

The Cross without Christ is safe.
The Cross with Christ demands repentance.
So the symbol is kept, but the message is removed.

3. Using the Cross as a weapon avoids affirming Christianity

If the Cross works because of Christ's victory over evil, then Christianity would be true within the story world.
Most creators do not want that implication.

4. Scholars note Buffy's anxiety around Christianity

Academic analysis shows that *Buffy* uses Christian imagery while simultaneously avoiding any affirmation of Christian doctrine or the existence of God Spotify.

This selective use is too consistent to be accidental.

5. A deeper irony

By removing the meaning of the Cross, vampire fiction unintentionally testifies to the very thing it avoids.

Why?
Because the Cross *does* repel evil — not as a magical object, but because:
• Christ conquered darkness
• Christ defeated death
• Christ broke the power of Satan
The symbol has power *because* of the Person.
Vampire fiction keeps the symbol but denies the Person — and in doing so, reveals the cultural discomfort with the Gospel itself.

Summary

The Cross is used because it is culturally recognizable, visually striking, and symbolically associated with "good vs. evil."
But its true meaning — Christ crucified for our sins — is intentionally omitted because it would introduce theological claims that many creators reject.

About the Author

Jim Giatas is an American Christian singer, songwriter, and author whose life and work are devoted to proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ with clarity, conviction, and love. Rooted in Holy Scripture and shaped by the ancient apostolic tradition of the Orthodox Christian faith, Jim writes with a singular purpose: to call believers to wholehearted devotion to God in an age of distraction, compromise, and spiritual confusion.

A lifelong seeker of truth, Jim's journey has taken him through the shifting landscapes of modern spirituality, denominational traditions, and cultural philosophies. After years of searching, he returned to the Orthodox Church of his baptism, embracing the faith once delivered to the saints. His writings reflect this pilgrimage — honest, reflective, and anchored in the unchanging authority of God's Word.

As a musician, Jim composes, performs, and records all of his own music, choosing authenticity over artifice and offering his work freely in obedience to Christ's command, *"Freely you have received, freely give."* His songs, available on his website, express the same themes that shape his books: repentance, hope, holiness, and the blessed expectation of Christ's return.

As an author, Jim writes with pastoral urgency and prophetic clarity. His books call believers to examine their hearts, reject the seduction of worldliness, and walk in obedience to the commandments of Christ. Whether addressing spiritual deception, the danger of divided loyalty, or the beauty of holiness, Jim's work consistently points readers to the supremacy of Christ and the necessity of loving God above all else.

Jim lives in Fredonia, New York, where he continues to write, compose, and share the Gospel with all who will listen. His mission is simple and unwavering:
to exalt Jesus Christ, to strengthen the faith of believers, and to encourage all to walk in the light of His commandments until the day of His appearing.

Acknowledgments

My deepest gratitude belongs first and always to the Lord Jesus Christ, whose mercy rescued me, whose commandments guide me, and whose love sustains every word I write. Without Him, I can do nothing; with Him, all things are possible. May this work bring honor to His Name alone.

I give thanks for the Holy Scriptures, the unchanging Word of God, which continue to illuminate the narrow way in a world that grows darker by the day. Every truth in these pages flows from the light of God's revelation, not from my own understanding.

To the faithful saints throughout history—the apostles, martyrs, teachers, and confessors—your lives and testimonies have strengthened my resolve to love God without compromise. Your witness reminds us that holiness is not an ideal but a calling, and that obedience to Christ is worth every cost.

To my family and friends, who have encouraged me, prayed for me, and supported my desire to write what God has placed on my heart—thank you. Your love has been a steadying grace.

To the readers, both known and unknown, who hunger for truth and long to walk in the light of Christ's commandments—this book is for you. May the Lord use it to deepen your devotion, sharpen your discernment, and strengthen your love for Him above all else.

Finally, I thank God for the quiet moments, the unexpected insights, and the gentle convictions by which He shaped these pages. Every good thing in this work is His; anything lacking is mine.

To Him be glory forever.

S.D.G.
Soli Deo Gloria — Glory to God alone
Μόνον τῷ Θεῷ ἡ δόξα (Monon tō Theō hē doxa)

Benediction

May the Lord Jesus Christ,
who calls His people out of the world and into the life of God,
establish your heart in holiness
and strengthen your steps in the narrow way.

May the Holy Spirit guard your affections,
purify your desires,
and empower you to love God with an undivided heart—
a heart that refuses the world's entanglements
and delights in the commandments of Christ.

May the Father of lights
keep you from the snares of compromise,
deliver you from the fear of man,
and anchor your soul in the eternal kingdom
that cannot be shaken.

May your love abound in knowledge and discernment,
your obedience flow from joy,

and your devotion remain steadfast
until the day when faith becomes sight
and the world passes away before the glory of the Lamb.

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
be with all who choose Him above all else,
who serve no master but Him,
and who walk in the light until He comes.

Amen.

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